(b) to (d) No centralised information regarding grant of incentives/ allowances, including Special (Duty) Allowance, is maintained in respect of semi-Central Government Departments/PSUs. So far as Railway employees are concerned, they are entitled to SDA on the same criteria as applicable to other Central Government employees. The All India Transfer Liability for this purpose is uniformly determined by applying tests of recruitment zone, promotion zone etc., *i.e.* whether recruitment to service/cadre/post has been made on all India basis and whether promotion is also based on all India common seniority list for the service/cadre/post as a whole.

Report of the Committee set up to Examine Placement of EDP Staff

3877. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Committee to examine the question of placement of EDP Staff in the data processing division of National Sample Survey Organisation subsequent to the judgement delivered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether this said Committee report is under consideration in the Ministry of Finance; and

(c) if so, what is the time frame to implement the Committee report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The report of Committee is being examined and a decision will be taken shortly.

Credit flow to Agriculture in Gujarat

3878. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the Public Sector Banks to improve credit flow to agriculture in Gujarat particularly to the tribals of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has

advised all the scheduled commercial banks to improve the flow of credit to agriculture in the entire country including the State of Gujarat. RBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development have taken several measures to further strengthen the flow of credit to agriculture sector. Some of these steps include introduction of cash credit facility for meeting the composite credit requirements of farmers/cultivators, introduction of the Kisan Credit Card Scheme for agriculture borrowers, opening of specialized agriculture branches to take care of financing of high-tech agricultural products, simplification of loan application forms, delegation of powers to the branch managers of banks for speedier sanction of loan, insistence of no-due certificate by banks at their own discretion, non-insistence of security/margin for agricultural loans upto Rs. 10,000, etc. In addition, banks falling short of their target in landing to agriculture have to contribute to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) maintained by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for assisting the State Governments and State-owned Corporation for completion of their on-going projects relating to rural infrastructure.

Encadrement of Posts in Indian Customs and Central Excise Service

3879. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state : whether it is a fact that inspite of the Fifth Pay Commission recommending encadrement of the posts of Chairman and Members of Central Board of Excise and Customs, within the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service, no steps have been taken so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : No, Sir, it is not correct to say that no steps have been taken so far. The matter has been examined in detail and the process is at an advanced stage.

Conversion of NBFCs into Banking Sector

3880. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Economic Times dated 5th February, 2000 under the caption "Leading NBFCs seek to convert into banks";

(b) if so, the names of the institutions and details of the proposals received from them;